

## Message Text

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70

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 AF-10 ARA-16

EA-11 NEA-10 DRC-01 /169 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2015

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

AMCONGEN MONTREAL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG PFOR UN XF

SUBJ: UN FIFTH COMITE: ARABIC AS UN LANGUAGE

REF: USUN 5493; STATE 197420

1. 29 STATES TABLED DRAFT RES ON INCLUSION OF ARABIC  
AMONG OFFICIAL AND WORKING LANGUAGES OF GA, ITS COMITES  
AND SUBCOMITES. TEXT IS IMPROVEMENT OVER DRAFT TRANSMITTED  
USUN REFTEL. REVISED VERSION IS AS FOLLOWS:

"THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANT ROLE OF THE ARABIC LANGUAGE IN  
PRESERVING AND DISSEMINATING THE CIVILIZATION OF MAN  
AND HIS CULTURE,

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RECOGNIZING FURTHER THAT THE ARABIC LANGUAGE IS THE LANGUAGE

OF 19 MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND IS A WORKING LANGUAGE IN SUCH SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AS UNESCO, FAO, WHO AND ILO, AS WELL AS AN OFFICIAL AND WORKING LANGUAGE OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY,

AWARE OF THE NEED TO ACHIEVE GREATER INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AND TO PROMOTE HARMONIZING THE ACTIONS OF NATIONS AS ENVISAGED IN THE CHARTER,

NOTING WITH APPRECIATION THE ASSURANCES OF THE ARAB STATES MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO MEET COLLECTIVELY THE COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS RESOLUTION DURING THE FIRST THREE YEARS,

DECIDES TO INCLUDE ARABIC AMONG THE OFFICIAL AND WORKING LANGUAGES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ITS MAIN COMMITTEES AND TO AMEND ACCORDINGLY THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ASSEMBLY."

2. ACABQ DECEMBER 11 RECEIVED COPY OF LETTER DATED DECEMBER 10 SIGNED BY PERM REPS OF 19 ARAB STATES ASSURING UN THAT THESE GOVTS WERE PREPARED TO MEET COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING RES DURING FIRST THREE YEARS. TEXT OF LETTER IS AS FOLLOWS:

"FURTHER TO THE LETTER OF THE PERMANENT OBSERVER OF THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES TO THE UNITED NATIONS DATED NOVEMBER 6, AND UPON INSTRUCTIONS FROM OUR GOVERNMENTS WE HAVE THE HONOUR TO INFORM YOU THAT SHOULD THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECIDE TO INCLUDE ARABIC AMONG THE OFFICIAL AND WORKING LANGUAGES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ITS MAIN COMMITTEES, OUR GOVERNMENTS WILL BE PREPARED TO MEET THE COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THE RELEVANT RESOLUTION DURING THE FIRST THREE YEARS."

3. RES AS NOW WORDED HAS ARAB STATES FULLY MEETING COSTS FOR ADDING LANGUAGE TO UN FOR THREE YEARS. THE AMENDED TEXT DOES NOT APPLY TO SUBSIDIARY ORGANS ESTABLISHED BY GA UNDER RULE 163. WE ASSUME, HOWEVER, THAT ONCE RES IS APPROVED, IT APPEARS INEVITABLE ARABIC WILL EVENTUALLY BE BROUGHT INTO FULL USE THROUGHOUT UN SYSTEM.  
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4. ALGERIAN REP (BOUAYAD-AGHA) REQUESTED STOTTLEMYER TO ADD US TO CO-SPONSORS OF RES.

5. AS SUGGESTED ABOVE, LITTLE OR NO OPPOSITION TO ARAB INITIATIVE HAS DEVELOPED. MANY EUROPEANS INCLUDING FRANCE AND ITALY ARE STRONG BACKERS OF INITIATIVE. IN LIGHT OF INEVITABILITY OF PASSAGE, WE RECOMMEND THAT WE NOT BE

REQUIRED TO OPPOSE DRAFT RES AS NOW WORDED (A/C.5/L1156).

6. NUMEROUS FACTORS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN DECIDING WHETHER TO ABSTAIN OR VOTE FOR DRAFT RES. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATIONS WEIGH AGAINST DRAFT. COSTS AFTER THE FIRST THREE YEARS WILL BE BORNE BY ALL MEMBER STATES. EVEN THOUGH RES APPLIES ONLY TO GA AND MAIN COMITES, ARAB STATES ARE BOUND TO ADD ARABIC TO LANGUAGES USED IN OTHER UN ORGANS IN NEAR FUTURE. STRAIN ON SECRETARIAT IN HANDLING FURTHER FLOOD OF DOCUMENTS AND CONCOMITANT INTERPRETING AND TRANSLATING SERVICES WILL BE SEVERE. ONCE WE BREAK LIMIT OF FIVE OFFICIAL AND WORKING LANGUAGES BASED ON "CHARTER LANGUAGES" WE SHOULD EXPECT POSSIBLE ADDITION OF SWAHILI, GERMAN, AND JAPANESE. THUS, FROM ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL STANDPOINT, IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE IF WE WERE ON RECORD AS ABSTAINING EVEN THOUGH WE WOULD NOT NECESSARILY HAVE TO GIVE EXPLANATION OF VOTE.

7. HOWEVER, POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS ON BOTH SHORT AND LONG TERM WEIGH PERHAPS MORE HEAVILY IN FAVOR OF GRACEFULLY ACCEPTING INEVITABLE AND VOTING FOR DRAFT. CONSIDERATION COULD BE GIVEN TO EXPLANATION OF VOTE AFTERWARDS TO STRESS EQUITY (AND PROBABLY FUTURE INCREASING NECESSITY) FOR UN TO INSTITUTE "PAY-AS-YOU-GO" TRANSLATION SERVICES. FROM POLITICAL VIEWPOINT, US SIMPLY CANNOT AFFORD TO APPEAR ISOLATED ON THIS EMOTION-LADEN (FROM ARAB VIEWPOINT) ISSUE A FEW DAYS BEFORE GENEVA, NOR IN LONGER HAUL OF REBUILDING US/ARAB RELATIONS IN WHATEVER NEW MIDDLE EASTERN EQUATION EMERGES FROM GENEVA.

8. UK DEL INFORMS US THEIR VIEWS ON THIS QUESTION PARALLEL OURS ON NEGATIVE SIDE. IF THERE WERE ANY CHANCE OF DEFEATING RESOLUTION THEY WOULD SEEK TO DO SO. HOWEVER, ACCEPTING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REALITIES OF PRESENT SITUATION AND OVER-RIDING POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, THEY WILL VOTE IN FAVOR.

9. ON BALANCE, EVEN ABSTENTION ON THIS ISSUE (GIVEN INEVITABLE PASSAGE) WOULD HAVE STRONG NEGATIVE OVERTONES AND US INTEREST BEST SERVED BY AFFIRMATIVE VOTE.  
BENNETT

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** RECOGNITION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MEMBER ADMISSIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, UNGA RESOLUTIONS, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS  
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